



PAGE 2 TEHRAN

S E C R E T

IN SITTING DOWN WITH THE CONSUMER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US ONE HELL OF A PROBLEM WHICH IS NOT GOING TO BE MADE EASIER BY AMERICAN MUSCLE FLEXING WHICH MAY LOOK GOOD TO CONGRESS BUT WHICH SIMPLY FANS EMOTIONALISM AND IRRATIONALITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(C) UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING IN ALL THIS WHICH WE ARE COMPLETELY MISSING, YOU MAY WANT TO PERSUADE OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS THAT THERE ARE NO OBVIOUS SHORTCUTS TO ROLLING BACK CRUDE OIL PRICES OR TO PERSUADING THE OPEC MEMBERS TO LINE-UP AND SALUTE.

(D) I HOPE THAT NONE OF THE FOREGOING IS TAKEN AMISS. MY EFFORT IS TO BE HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE, SO PLEASE READ THIS NO OTHER WAY. WARM REGARDS.

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